



**WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NATUROPATHIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

MAY 17, 2007

LOCATION: Holiday Inn
One South Grady Way
Renton, WA 98055

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Hazel Philp, ND, Chair
John J. Nowicki, ND
Joanne Hillary, ND
Gail Fisher, Public Member – Absent
Andrew Rebmann, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Susan Gragg, Program Manager
Blake Maresh, Executive Director
Pamela Anderson, Assistant Attorney General
Tami Thompson, Health Policy Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hazel Philp, ND, called the meeting of the Washington State Naturopathic Advisory Committee to order at 4:07 p.m. on May 17, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Select, One South Grady Way, Renton, Washington 98033.

1.1 Approval of May 17, 2007, meeting agenda.

The May 17, 2007 meeting agenda was approved with a correction to the listed date of item 1.2 from February 15, 2007, to February 16, 2007.

1.2 Approval of February 16, 2007 meeting minutes

The February 16, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as written.

2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Blake Maresh, Executive Director, provided a brief written report on the Bills passed by the Legislature during the 2007 session and their impact on the Department.

- ESHB 1414 – Ambulatory Surgical Centers. Requires the Medical Quality Assurance Commission, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, and the Podiatric Medical Board to develop rules regarding ambulatory surgical centers.
- HB 1073 – Emergency Workers. Extends liability immunity to all volunteer emergency workers.
- ESSB 6032 – Medical Marijuana. Requires rules defining 60-day supply and development of a report regarding other states' laws regarding procuring and use of medical marijuana.
- ES22B 5930 – Blue Ribbon Commission. Requires the Department to: 1) provide training and technical assistance for providers of primary care, focused on caring for people with chronic disease care; and 2) establish a web-based interactive prescription monitoring program to monitor prescribing and dispensing of Schedule II, III, IV, and V Controlled Substances.

3. RULE PROJECTS UPDATE

3.1 2005 Legislative Session rules update

Susan Gragg, Program Manager, stated that the draft rules have been submitted to the Department internal reviewers. Preliminary suggested changes include removing the “opt out” language as this is a practice decision, removing the examination development requirement and instead require an attestation of training, and change the definitions portion into statements regarding what constitutes naturopathic practice.

3.2 Retired Volunteer Medical Worker rules

Susan Gragg, Program Manager, gave a brief report on the status of the rule project regarding Retired Volunteer Medical worker licensure.

3.3 NPLEX examination rule revision

Susan Gragg, Program Manager, gave a brief report regarding the August 2007 NPLEX examination changes from a series of individual exams within a session to integrated component exams. The Department will be expediting the rule change for the August implementation.

3.4 Future rules projects:

- 3.4.1 Continuing Education
- 3.4.2 Intrauterine Devices (tentative depending on internal review changes)
- 3.4.3 Chelation Therapy (tentative depending on internal review changes)

4. PROGRAM REPORTS

4.1 Executive Director Report

Blake Maresh, Executive Director, reported the Citizens Advocacy Center is holding its annual meeting on October 29-31, 2007, in Seattle at the Edgewater Hotel. Members who wish to attend will be reimbursed for travel and lodging (lodging reimbursement is limited to those traveling more than 50 miles). Susan Gragg will forward information to the Committee members upon her return to the office.

Mr. Maresh reported the Integrated Licensing Regulatory System (ILRS) is still in process. The Department is close to a preliminary implementation with the "stress test" phase currently running. Implementation will gradually be brought on-line to full implementation by February 2008.

Mr. Maresh reported the Department is currently researching imaging capabilities. Areas being looked at are disciplinary files and the Public Disclosure Records Center.

Mr. Maresh reported on ESSB 6032 that requires rules by July 2008 defining what constitutes a 60-day supply of medical marijuana. The legislation also requires a report to the Legislature by July 2008 on other states' medical marijuana distribution processes. Mr. Maresh indicated he has been tasked with spearheading the rules project and report development. Christian Dodge, ND, asked why Naturopathic Physicians have not been identified as being able to advise patients with qualifying conditions to use medical marijuana since a number of Naturopathic Physicians care for these patients as well. Mr. Maresh indicated that the original law, passed as citizens Initiative 692, identified only physicians licensed under Chapter 18.71 and 18.57 RCW, which are MDs and DOs. Any changes to the law would require either another initiative or an act of legislation.

Mr. Maresh gave a brief report on the performance audit being performed on the Department's Health Profession Quality Assurance Division. The Auditors have completed the field work and are preparing their report with an anticipated release date of July 2007.

Mr. Maresh also gave a brief report on the current status of the Health Systems Quality Assurance restructuring project. Further details are still to be worked out and additional reports will be made as information becomes available.

4.2 Deputy Executive Director Report

Deputy Executive Director, Maryella Jansen, was absent.

4.3 Disciplinary Report

There was no disciplinary report.

4.4 Program Report

Ms. Gragg provided the report requested by Christian Dodge, ND, of the Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians, at the February 16, 2007 meeting regarding the number of licensees practicing in Washington State. The report indicates the numbers in each Washington county as well as the number with an out of state address.

Ms. Gragg also provided a report requested by Kasra Pournadeali, ND, of the Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians, detailing the number of Naturopathic Physicians licensed each year since creation of the profession, as well as the number of complaints received each year with case outcomes (such as closed with no action, revocation, reprimand, or other actions).

Ms. Gragg reported the Department will be sending out its annual survey for all members of Boards, Commissions, and Committees regarding members' interaction with the Department and staff.

Ms. Gragg reported Committee members should mark their calendars for September 28, 2007, to attend the Board/Commission/Committee Conference at the Renton Holiday Inn hosted by the Department.

5. MEETING SCHEDULE APPROVAL

5.1 2007

The next two Naturopathic Advisory Committee meetings will be held August 17, 2007, and November 30, 2007, in the Renton area at 10:30 am.

5.2 2008

Scheduling of the 2008 meetings was tabled until the November meeting.

6. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

The Committee held the election of officers. Hazel Philp, ND, was elected Chair and the position of Vice Chair resulted in a tie vote as there were only 4 voting members. It was determined to hold a 2nd election for Vice Chair at the next meeting to be held August 17, 2007.

7. INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE UNIT OVERVIEW

Tami Thompson, Health Policy Manager, gave a brief overview on the Administrative Procedures Act and general agency rule activity processes.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

(Signatures on File)

Susan Gragg, Program Manager
Naturopathic Program

Hazel Philp, ND, Chair
Naturopathic Advisory Committee